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USSR MEDICAL PUBLICATIONS IN 1955

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Docent N. A. Vinogradov, Director of the State Publishing House of Medical Literature, gave the following information to a reporter of Meditinskiy Rabotnik in the course of an interview:

In compiling the plan for medical publication in 1955, the plans of research ["problem plans"] drawn up by the scientific councils of the ministries of health of the USSR and the union republics were taken into consideration, and the recommendations made by the Presidium of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR and other organizations were heeded. As far as the subject matter of the publications is concerned, the plan to be carried out by Medgiz (State Publishing House for Medical Literature) was discussed at meetings of physicians and scientists held in Moscow, Leningrad, Sverdlovsk, Smolensk, Novgorod, Tbilisi, Minsk, Riga, and other cities. Letters received from readers were also taken into consideration.

The publication of 816 different books and periodicals having a combined circulation of 19,600,000 copies is foreseen for 1955. All these publications will comprise 8,125 author's sheets [standard signature sheets containing 40,000 printed symbols], while the quantity of printed copy sheets will reach 170 million. In 1950, the last year of the Fourth Five-Year Plan, Medgiz published 498 titles, corresponding to a circulation slightly higher than 12 million copies, 5,246 author's sheets, and 100,690,000 printed copy sheets.

During the current year, 36 textbooks for higher and middle medical educational institutions will be published. The circulation of every textbook will comprise 50,000-100,000 copies. Medgiz has at last achieved a reduction in the size of textbooks. For instance, a textbook on otorhinolaryngology for higher educational institutions will contain 30 author's sheets instead of 40, a physics textbook 25 author's sheets instead of 40, etc. The students of higher educational institutions will receive textbooks on epidemiology, obstetrics, medical radiobiology, and physical therapy, published lectures on public health protection, history of medicine, etc. Textbooks of children's diseases, the hygiene of nutrition, pathology, microbiology, physics, Latin, etc., are in preparation for middle medical educational institutions.

Publication of the work Opyt Sovetskoy Meditsiny v Velikoy Otechestvennoy Voiny 1941-1945 (The Experience of Soviet Medicine in World War II) will be completed in 1955. When completed, this work will consist of 35 volumes. During the current year, the final six volumes will be published. They will deal with epidemiology, infectious diseases, the pathology of firearm wounds and injuries, the hygiene of nutrition and water supply in the field, firearm wounds of blood vessels, and firearm wounds and injuries of organs of the retroperitoneal space and of the pelvis.

Responding to a demand on the part of the medical profession, Medgiz will begin the publication of multivolume manuals. The first three volumes, which will be devoted to problems of pathological anatomy (under the editorship of A. I. Abrikosov) and of neurology (under the editorship of N. I. Grashchenkov), are going to be published this year.

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The publication of medical atlases is being continued. the following works of this type will be supplied to the readers: R. D. Sinel'nikov, Atlas Anatomii Cheloveka (Atlas of Human Anatomy), Vol II; S. A. Sarkisov (editor), Tsitoarkhitektonicheskiy Atlas Golovnogo Mozga (Cytoarchitectonic Atlas of the Cerebrum); S. A. Reynberg, Rentgenodiagnostika Zabolevaniy Kostey i Sustavov (X-Ray Diagnosis of Diseases of the Bones and Joints), which is a manual accompanied by an atlas; A. N. Maksimenkov, Khirurgicheskaya Anatomiya Grudi (Surgical Anatomy of the Chest).

Scientific publications occupy a prominent place in the plan which will be carried out by Medgiz, just as they did in former years. In this subdivision it has been planned to publish books which will summarize investigations carried out by prominent Soviet scientists and will give information on new methods of diagnosis, prophylaxis, and therapy of various diseases. The following major monographs are being prepared for publication: A. N. Bakulev, Ye. N. Meshalkin, Vrozhdennyye Poroki Serdtsa i Khirurgicheskoye Lecheniye Ikh (Congenital Defects of the Heart and Their Surgical Treatment); S. S. Yudin, Etyudy Zheludochnoy Khirurgii (Studies in Gastric Surgery); A. G. Ivanov-Smolenskiy, Opyt Ob'yektivnogo Izucheniya Raboty i Vzaimodeystviya Pervoy i Vtoroy Signal'nykh Sistem Golovnogo Mozga (An Attempt at the Investigation of the Operation and Interactions of the First and Second Signal Systems of the Brain); and P. A. Kupriyanov (editor), Gnoynnye Zabolevaniya Legkikh i Plevry (Purulent Afflictions of the Lungs and Pleura).

One must remark, however, that the plan does not satisfy completely the demand for scientific medical publications. The prophylactic trend of Soviet public health protection is inadequately reflected in a number of books. Publications dealing with the basic nosological forms of diseases that require urgent elucidation (rheumatic fever or rheumatism ["revmatizm"], cardiovascular diseases, and malignant neoplasms) are inadequately represented. Also weakly represented in the scientific literature subdivision are discussions of problems pertaining to labor hygiene, living conditions, and rest. To overcome this lag, active aid is required on the part of scientists and of whole groups of investigators at branch scientific research institutes who are engaged in the study of urgent problems pertaining to the protection of the health of working people.

Great popularity is enjoyed by the series Biblioteka Prakticheskogo Vracha (The Library of the Practicing Physician). While approving and evaluating highly some of the books of this series, the readers at the same time put increasing requirements on the quality of books of this type. In addition to the series mentioned above, Medgiz publishes other, analogous series, i.e., Biblioteka Sanitarnogo Vracha (The Library of the Sanitary Physician) and Biblioteka Vracha-Organizatora (The Library of the Physician-Organizer). All these books are to be used primarily by workers in the field of rural public health. During 1955, 90 books will appear in these series. These books will have a volume of 1,000 author's sheets, i.e., twice as great a volume as in 1954. The circulation of books of this type comprised 850,000 copies in 1954; and will amount to nearly 2,000,000 during the current year.

Of undoubted significance are the collections of papers [to be published] which will deal with the biological action of radiation derived from radioactive sources and the clinical aspects and therapy of radiation sickness.

Monographs dealing with the activity of persons prominent in national medicine (A. I. Babukhin, A. P. Gubarev, and A. T. Polotebnov) will appear. The works of I. I. Mechnikov, G. F. Lang, N. F. Gamaleya, and V. S. Doynikov are being prepared for publication.

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The publication in large numbers of copies of various reference books, dictionaries, and bibliographic indexes has been provided for.

The circulation of popular-scientific and sanitary-educational publications for mass consumption will be increased considerably. In this category, the total number of published copy sheets will be one and a half times greater in 1955 than in 1954. In addition to small books, large popular medical manuals will be published. These manuals will discuss all problems of health and of social and individual prophylaxis. The following books of this type will be published in 1955 for mass circulation: Kak Byt' Zdorovym (How to Be in Good Health), a book comprising 20 author's sheets, and O Sokhraneni Zdorov'ya i Rabotosposobnosti (How to Preserve Good Health and Working Ability), a book consisting of 13 author's sheets. Furthermore, a number of popular scientific pamphlets will be published, including the following: A. A. Smorodintsev, Gripp i Yego Preduprezhdeniye (Influenza and Its Prevention), 200,000 copies; V. K. Trutnev, Chto Nado Znat' Ob Angine (What One Should Know About the Common Sore Throat), 200,000 copies; I. I. Benedektinov, Psikhoprofilaktika Boley v Rodakh (Psychoprophylaxis of Pain in Childbirth), 200,000 copies; V. F. Zelenin, Kak Ukrepit' i Sokhranit' Svoye Serdtse Zdorovym (How to Strengthen One's Heart and Keep It Healthy), 100,000 copies; S. N. Davidenkov, Nevrozy i Ikh Preduprezhdeniye (Neuroses and Their Prevention), 100,000 copies; G. N. Speranskiy, Zheludochno-Kishechnyye Zabolevaniya u Detey (Gastrointestinal Diseases of Children), 100,000 copies.

An important place in the plan which will be carried out by Medgiz is occupied by periodicals. The circulation of periodicals increases from year to year. To give a few instances, the circulation of Meditinskaya Sestra was increased at the end of 1954 from 20,000 to 70,000 copies, the circulation of Sovetskaya Meditsina from 45,000 to 60,000 copies, and the circulation of Fel'dsher i Akusherka from 30,000 to 70,000 copies.

Beginning with January 1955, the following eight new journals will be published: Voprosy Onkologii (Problems of Oncology); Ortopediya, Travmatologiya, i Protezirovaniye (Orthopedics, Traumatology, and Prosthetics); Urologiya (Urology); Voprosy Kurortologii, Fizioterapii, i Lechebnoy Fizicheskoy Kul'tury (Problems of Balneology, Physical Therapy, and Therapeutic Physical Culture); Voprosy Meditsinskoy Khimii (Problems of Medical Chemistry); Laboratornoye Delo (Laboratory Affairs), and Zdorov'ye (Health). The last-mentioned periodical is destined for wide circles of educated people and for the Soviet family. Altogether Medgiz will publish 38 periodicals during the current year.

Although the quality of the journals is being systematically improved, many substantial faults must still be eliminated in connection with their publication. To an increasing extent, readers are taking to task the boards of editors for these faults, and the criticism advanced by the readers is justified. Common weaknesses shown by a number of journals are inability to organize a free discussion in print of vital problems of public health, violation of the principle of collaboration with colleagues in the work of editorial boards, and unwillingness to collaborate with contributors. The members of editorial boards are honor bound to overcome within the shortest possible time the faults inherent in their work and improve radically the quality of the material published by them. This purpose should be achieved with the aid of the medical community.

In conclusion Vinogradov emphasized the following points:

The plan drawn up by Medgiz for 1955 represents significant progress as far as subject matter is concerned. Nevertheless, the publishing house cannot fully satisfy the growing demands of the medical workers. For instance,

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textbooks of many clinical and theoretical disciplines will not be published. Many blanks remain to be filled in the fields of scientific and popular science publications. Few books are published which describe the experience of pioneers and of advanced workers in public health.

To satisfy to an increased extent the demands imposed by actual conditions, it is necessary to improve greatly the activities in all phases of publication. One must strive to raise constantly the ideological and scientific level of the books that are being published and also improve the quality and shorten the time which elapses before publication. To achieve these ends, Medgiz must seek the active collaboration of the medical community.

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